

May 14, 1964

Dr. Wolfram Heumann
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Dear Wolfram:

Perhaps I can get right to the point in answering your letter of May 5. I can understand very well the considerations that may make you wish to make a fresh start in your research career in the United States.

I really do not see how you can go very wrong in joining Harm and Bresch and having them as colleagues would be the most important consideration. Dallas is an important commercial and industrial center, and probably will become even more so as time goes on. It has not had a very profound development as an academic center and, of course, it was precisely to remedy this that Lloyd Berkner took over the responsibility of organizing the new center for graduate research.

At the time that this was being started, Dr. Berkner was chairman of the Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences, and I was then a member of the same committee. On the basis of this personal connection he had asked me to help him in some of the early planning for the graduate research center and I did perhaps play a very nominal role for a few months. However, I was not able to give very much time and it is not correct to say that I am a member of the advisory council of the center although I do know the circumstances of its initiation. I know that Berkner has managed to get a staff together of considerable prominence in the Physical Sciences, and they certainly do not lack from good intention or financial support to do the same in Biology. I would not consider Dallas to be the first choice of a place in the country that I would like to live, mainly for climatic reasons, but this is perhaps not a decisive consideration and in many other respects this may indeed be a very good opportunity for your consideration. But I think the question of your immediate colleagues is the most important consideration and I think you will give it the attention that it deserves in making up your mind.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Professor of Genetics

JL:as

See *Handwritten note* in *Manuscript*